

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

Claims 1-10 (Cancelled)

Claim 11 (New): A method of treating a neurodegenerative disease comprising:  
administering an amount of N-acetyl-L-pipeolic acid or a salt thereof in an amount  
sufficient to treat the neurodegenerative disease.

Claim 12 (New): The method of Claim 11, wherein said neurodegenerative disease is  
Parkinson's disease.

Claim 13 (New): The method of Claim 11, wherein said neurodegenerative disease is  
Alzheimer's disease.

Claim 14 (New): The method of Claim 11, wherein said neurodegenerative disease is  
Huntington's disease.

Claim 15 (New): The method of Claim 11, wherein said neurodegenerative disease is  
spinal injury.

Claim 16 (New): The method of Claim 11, wherein said neurodegenerative disease is  
cerebral infarction or head trauma.

Claim 17 (New): The method of Claim 11, wherein said neurodegenerative disease is  
multiple sclerosis or amyotrophic lateral sclerosis.

Claim 18 (New): The method of Claim 11, wherein said neurodegenerative disease is diabetic retinopathy, drug-induced peripheral retinopathy, or retinal neuropathy.

Claim 19 (New): The method of Claim 11, comprising administering an amount of N-acetyl-L-pipecolic acid or a salt thereof sufficient to enhance the expression of neurotropin.

Claim 20 (New): The method of Claim 11, comprising administering an amount of N-acetyl-L-pipecolic acid or a salt thereof sufficient to enhance the expression of nerve growth factor (NGF).

Claim 21 (New): The method of Claim 11, comprising administering an amount of N-acetyl-L-pipecolic acid or a salt thereof sufficient to enhance the expression of glial cell derived neurotrophic factor (GDNF).

Claim 22 (New): The method of Claim 11, comprising administering an amount of N-acetyl-L-pipecolic acid or a salt thereof sufficient to enhance the expression of glia growth factor (GGF2) or central nervous system growth factor (AF-1).

Claim 23 (New): The method of Claim 11, comprising administering an amount of N-acetyl-L-pipecolic acid or a salt thereof sufficient to enhance the expression of brain-derived neurotropic factor (BDNF).

Claim 24 (New): The method of Claim 11, comprising administering an amount of N-acetyl-L-pipecolic acid or a salt thereof sufficient to enhance the expression of neurotropin-3 (NT-3), neurotropin 4/5 (NT-4/5) or neurotropin-6 (NT-6).

Claim 25 (New): The method of Claim 11, comprising administering 0.01 mg/kg to 100 mg/kg of N-acetyl-L-pipecolic acid or a salt thereof.

Claim 26 (New): The method of Claim 11, comprising administering 0.1 mg/kg to 10 mg/kg of N-acetyl-L-pipecolic acid or a salt thereof.

Claim 27 (New): The method of Claim 11, wherein N-acetyl-L-pipecolic acid or a salt thereof is administered orally.

Claim 28 (New): The method of Claim 11, wherein N-acetyl-L-pipecolic acid or a salt thereof is administered parenterally.

Claim 29 (New): The method of Claim 11, wherein N-acetyl-L-pipecolic acid or a salt thereof is administered externally.

Claim 30 (New): A method for promoting the production of a neurotropic factor comprising:

contacting a nerve cell with N-acetyl-L-pipecolic acid or a salt thereof.